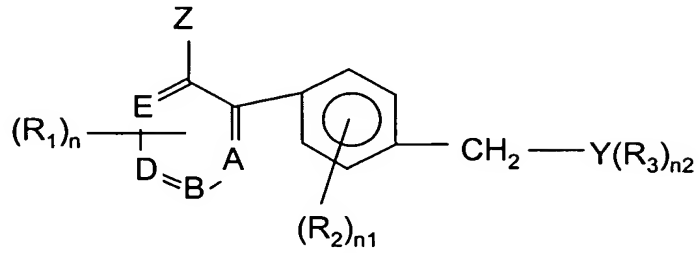
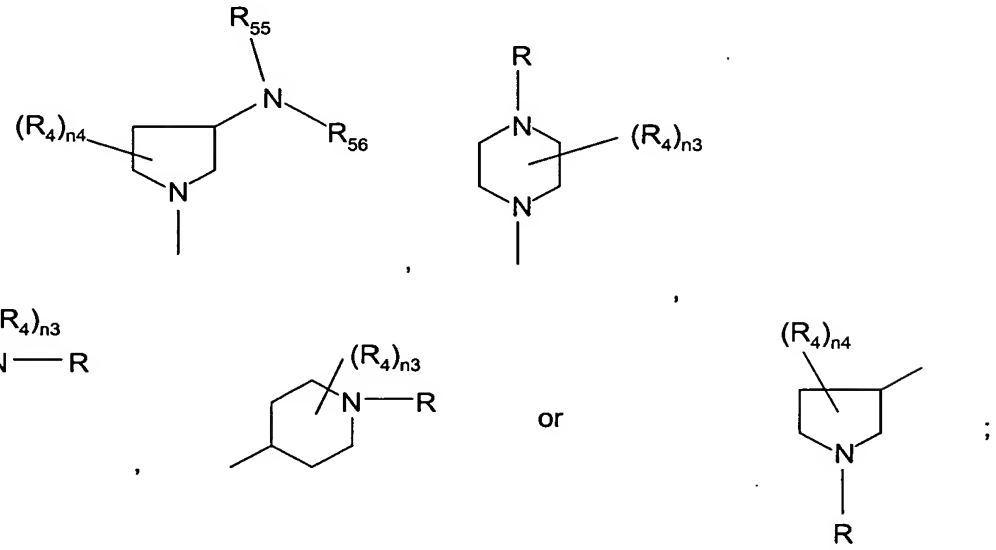
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of the formula



or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof wherein

Z is 

A, B, D, E are independently CH or N, with at most two of A, B, D, and E being N;

each R, R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are independently hydrogen loweralkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with one to four substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkoxy, cycloalkyl lower alkyl or cycloalkyl lower alkoxy;

Y is a nitrogen containing heteroaryl having 5 to 14 ring atoms and containing at least one ring nitrogen atom and may optionally contain an additional ring heteroatom selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur; said heteroaryl ring containing 5 to 13 ring carbon atoms and up to a total of 20 carbon atoms;

R_{55} and R_{56} are independently methyl or ethyl;

n is 0 to 4;

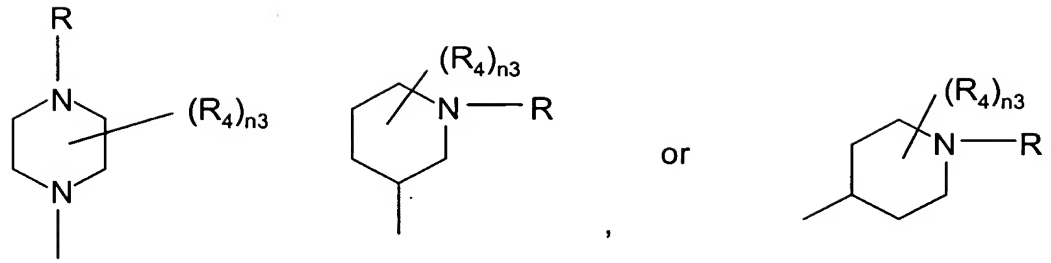
n_1 is 0-5;

n_2 is 0-5;

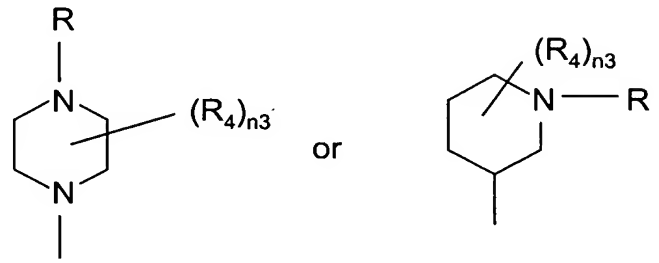
n_3 is 0-4; and

n_4 is 0-3.

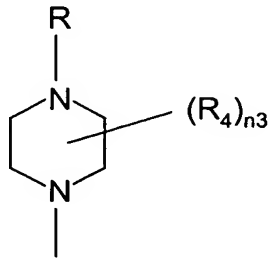
2. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Z is



3. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Z is



4. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Z is



5. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein at most one of E, D, B or A is nitrogen.

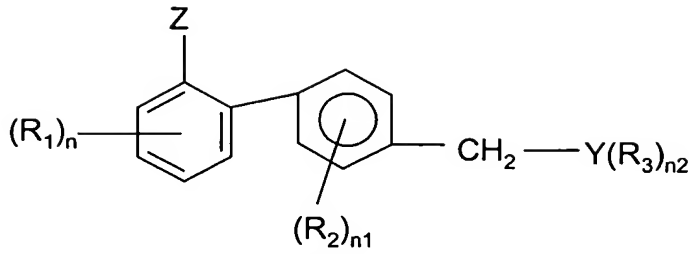
6. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R, R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are independently hydrogen or lower alkyl which is unsubstituted.

7. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Y is a nitrogen containing heteroaryl containing at most three ring heteroatoms, wherein the ring heteroatoms are nitrogen.

8. A compound according to Claim 7 wherein Y contains one or two ring nitrogen atoms.

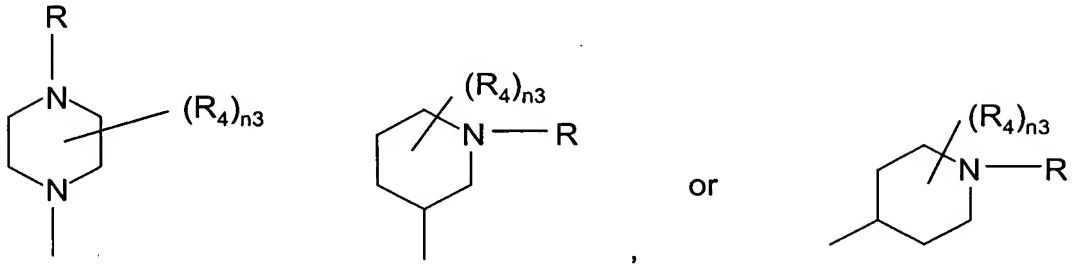
9. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Y is pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, imidazolyl, benzoimidazolyl, or indolyl.

10. A compound according to Claim 1 having the formula

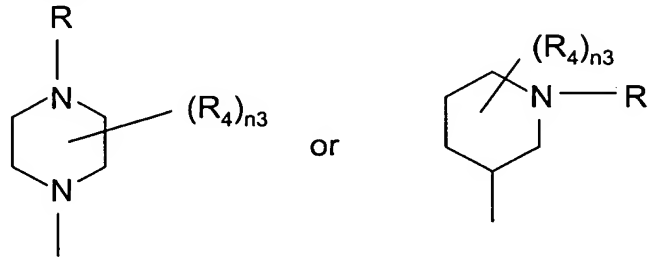


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. A compound according to Claim 10 wherein Z is



12. A compound according to Claim 10 wherein Z is



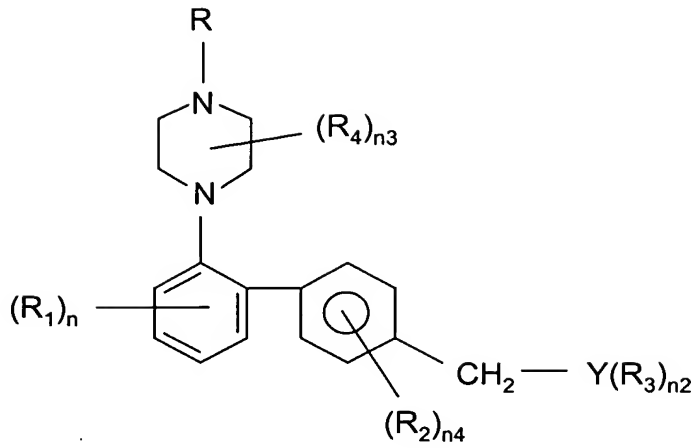
13. A compound according to Claim 10 wherein R, R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are independently hydrogen or lower alkyl which is unsubstituted.

14. A compound according to Claim 10 wherein Y is a nitrogen containing heteroaryl containing at most three ring heteroatoms, wherein the ring heteroatoms are nitrogen.

15. A compound according to Claim 14 wherein Y contains one or two ring nitrogen atoms.

16. A compound according to Claim 10 wherein Y is pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, imidazolyl, benzoimidazolyl or indolyl.

17. A compound according to Claim 1 of the formula



or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

18. A compound according to Claim 17 wherein n, n_1, n_2 and n_3 are 1.

19. A compound according to Claim 17 wherein R is lower alkyl and R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are hydrogen or unsubstituted lower alkyl.

20. A compound according to Claim 17 wherein Y is pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, imidazolyl, benzoimidazolyl, or indolyl.

21. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the compound is

1-[2'-(4-Methyl-piperizine-1-yl)-biphenyl-4-ylmethyl]-1H-benzoimidazole;

5-Chloro-1-[2'-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-biphenyl-4-ylmethyl]-1H-benzoimidazole;

6-Chloro-1-[2'-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-biphenyl-4-ylmethyl]-1H-benzoimidazole;

1-(4'-Imidazol-1-ylmethyl-biphenyl-2-yl)-4-methyl-piperazine;

1-[2'-(4-Methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-biphenyl-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indole;

5-Fluoro-1-(2'-piperazin-1-yl-biphenyl-4-ylmethyl)-1H-indole;

5-Bromo-1-[2'-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-biphenyl-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indole;

5-Methyl-1-[2'-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-biphenyl-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indole;

1-Methyl-4-(4'-pyrrol-1-ylmethyl-biphenyl-2-yl)-piperazine;

2-Methyl-1-[2'-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-biphenyl-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indole;

1-[2'-(4-Methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-biphenyl-4-ylmethyl]-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

2-Methyl-1-[2'-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-biphenyl-4-ylmethyl]-1H-benzoimidazole;

1-Methyl-4-(4'-[1,2,4]triazol-1-ylmethyl-biphenyl-2-yl)-piperazine;

3-(4'-[1,2,4]Triazol-1-ylmethyl-biphenyl-2-yl)-piperidine;

3-[4'-(2-Ethyl-pyrrol-1-ylmethyl)-biphenyl-2-yl]-piperidine;

3-(4'-Pyrazol-1-ylmethyl-biphenyl-2-yl)-piperidine;

3-(4'-Pyrrol-1-ylmethyl-biphenyl-2-yl)-piperidine;

1-(2'-Piperidin-3-yl-biphenyl-4-ylmethyl)-1H-indole;

1-{4-[2-(4-Methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-benzyl}-1H-benzoimidazole;

5-Chloro-1-{4-[2-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-benzyl}-1H-benzoimidazole;

6-Chloro-1-{4-[2-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-benzyl}-1H-benzoimidazole;
1-[3-(4-Imidazol-1-ylmethyl-phenyl)-pyridin-2-yl]-4-methyl-piperazine;
1-{4-[2-(4-Methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-benzyl}-1H-indole;
5-Fluoro-1-{4-[2-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-benzyl}-1H-indole;
5-Bromo-1-{4-[2-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-benzyl}-1H-indole;
5-Methyl-1-{4-[2-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-benzyl}-1H-indole;
1-Methyl-4-[3-(4-pyrrol-1-ylmethyl-phenyl)-pyridin-2-yl]-piperazine;
2-Methyl-1-{4-[2-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-benzyl}-1H-indole;
1-{4-[2-(4-Methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-benzyl}-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
2-Methyl-1-{4-[2-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-pyridin-3-yl]-benzyl}-1H-benzoimidazole; or
1-Methyl-4-[3-(4-[1,2,4]triazol-1-ylmethyl-phenyl)-pyridin-2-yl]-piperazine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

23. A method for treating a disorder or condition that can be treated by modulating serotonergic neurotransmission in a mammal, comprising administering to a mammal requiring such treatment a serotonin 7 receptor antagonizing or agonizing effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. A pharmaceutical composition for treating a condition or disorder that can be treated by modulating serotonergic neurotransmission in a mammal, comprising:

a) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;

b) a first compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

c) a second compound selected from the group consisting of a 5HT reuptake inhibitor, a 5HT1B receptor antagonist and a NK1 receptor antagonist and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

wherein the total amount of the first compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and second compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof are such that the composition is effective in treating such disorder or condition.

25. A method for treating a disorder or condition that can be treated by modulating serotonergic neurotransmission in a mammal, comprising administering to a mammal requiring such treatment:

a) a compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

b) a second compound selected from the group consisting of 5HT reuptake inhibitor, a 5HT1B receptor antagonist and an NK1 receptor antagonist and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

wherein the amounts of the first compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or second compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof are such that the combination is effective in treating such disorder or condition.

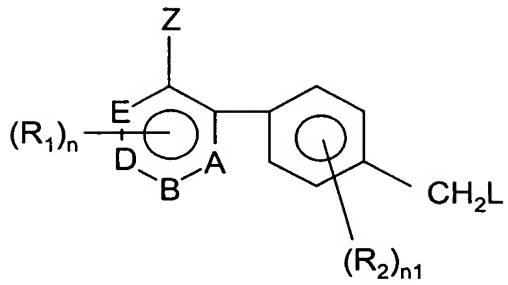
26. A method for treating a disorder or condition selected from depression, anxiety, avoidant personality disorder, premature ejaculation, eating disorders, migraine, premenstrual syndrome, premenstrual dysphoric disorder, seasonal affective disorder, bipolar disorder, jet lag, sleep disorder, nocturnal enuresis, and restless leg syndrome in a mammal, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, that is effective in treating such disorder or condition.

27. A method according to Claim 26 wherein the sleep disorder is circadian sleep rhythms disorder, sleep deprivation, REM sleep disorder, hypersomnia, parasomnia, sleep-wake cycle disorder, a sleep disorder associated with blindness, a sleep disorder associated with obesity, narcolepsy, or a sleep disorder associated with shift work or irregular work schedules.

28. A method of treating a disorder or condition selected from depression, anxiety, avoidant personality disorder, premature ejaculation, eating disorders, migraine, premenstrual syndrome, premenstrual dysphoric disorder, seasonal affective disorder, bipolar disorder, jet lag, sleep disorder, nocturnal enuresis, and restlessleg syndrome in a mammal, comprising administering to a mammal requiring such treatment: a first compound according to Claim 1 or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a second compound selected from the group consisting of a serotonin reuptake inhibitor, a NK1 receptor antagonist and a 5HT1B receptor antagonist and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; wherein the first compound or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt and second compound or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt are present in amounts that render the combination effective in treating such disorder or condition.

29. A method according to Claim 28 wherein the sleep disorder is circadian sleep rhythms disorder, sleep deprivation, REM sleep disorder; hypersomnia, parasomnia, a sleep-wake cycle disorder, a sleep disorder associated with blindness, a sleep disorder associated with obesity, narcolepsy, or a sleep disorder associated with shift work or irregular work schedules.

30. A compound of the formula



A, B, D, E are independently CH or N, with at most two of A, B, D, and E being N;

each R, R_1, R_2, and R_3 are independently hydrogen loweralkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with one to four substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkoxy, cycloalkyl lower alkyl or cycloalkyl lower alkoxy;

L is a leaving group or OH;

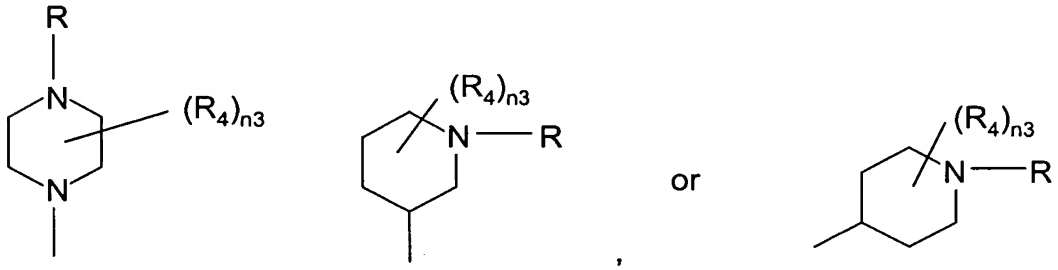
n is 0 to 4;

n_1 is 0-5;

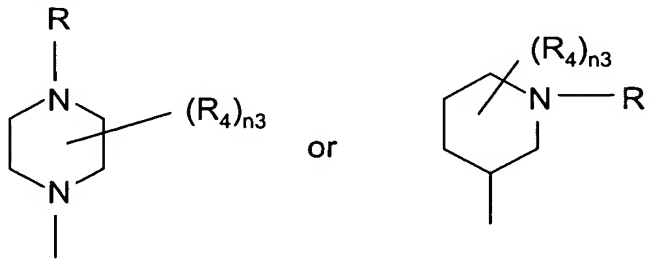
n_3 is 0-4; and

n_4 is 0-3.

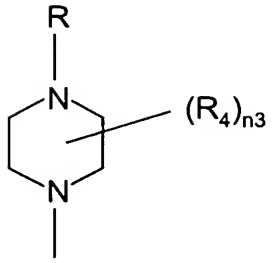
31. A compound according to Claim 30 wherein Z is



32. A compound according to Claim 30 wherein Z is



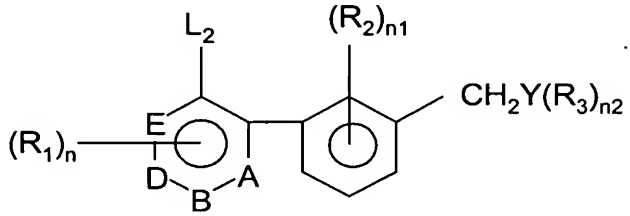
33. A compound according to Claim 30 wherein Z is



34. A compound according to Claim 30 wherein at most one of E, D, B or A is nitrogen.

35. A compound according to Claim 30 wherein R, R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are independently hydrogen or lower alkyl which is unsubstituted.

36. A compound of the formula



A, B, D, E are independently CH or N, with at most two of A, B, D, and E being N;

each R_1, R_2, and R_3 are independently hydrogen loweralkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with one to four substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkoxy, cycloalkyl lower alkyl or cycloalkyl lower alkoxy;

Y is a nitrogen containing heteroaryl having 5 to 14 ring atoms and containing at least one ring nitrogen atom and may optionally contain an additional ring heteroatom selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur; said heteroaryl ring containing 5 to 13 ring carbon atoms and up to a total of 20 carbon atoms;

L_2 is OH;

n is 0 to 4;

n_1 is 0-5; and

n_2 is 0-5.

37. A compound according to Claim 36 wherein at most one of E, D, B or A is nitrogen.

38. A compound according to Claim 36 wherein Y is a nitrogen containing heteroaryl containing at most three ring heteroatoms, wherein the ring heteroatoms are nitrogen.

39. A compound according to Claim 38 wherein Y is a nitrogen containing heteroaryl containing one or two ring nitrogen atoms.

40. A compound according to Claim 36 wherein Y is pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, imidazolyl, benzoimidazolyl or indolyl.